GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1002
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE MARKETING SECTOR
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up a Standing Committee of State Ministers tœvolve an action plan for the Implementation of reform steps in the agriculture-marketing sector;

(b) if so, whether the report has been submitted to the Government; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Standing Committee in its meeting held on 29.1.2003 made the following recommendations:

(i) The States may appropriately amend, wherever needed, the respective APMC Acts to paveway for promotion of direct marketing and contract farming arrangements and for establishment of competitive agricultural markets/marketing infrastructure in private and cooperative sectors, subject to safeguarding farmers` interests.

(ii) To request Reserve Bank of India/National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development tœvolve a simplified procedure in consultation with banks for sanction of pledge loan on the agriculture commodities stored in rural godowns and to ensure that warehousing receipts/godowns receipts issued by the operators of rural godowns are acceptable to bankers for providing marketing credit.

(iii) The central Warehousing Corporation, Ministry of Food, to prepare a blue print/action planfor the introduction of negotiable warehousing receipt system in the country for agricultural commodities.

(iv) The Central Government may formulate a model legislation on agricultural marketing forguiding the States in implementation of the reforms programme.

(c): The State Governments and the Central Government agencies are being addressed to takenecessary steps to implement the aforesaid recommendations. A committee has also been setup under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture on 5th February 2003 to formulate a model legislation.